

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A security tag, comprising  
a tag housing;  
a tack body; ~~and~~  
a linear clamp disposed within said tag housing, the linear clamp including a spring arm to bias the linear clamp against one or more abutments, the linear clamp ~~having~~ further including a slot with a slot length to retain said tack body, ~~and the linear clamp~~ to move in a substantially linear direction along said slot length in response to a force to release said tack body from said slot, the linear clamp further including a tack retaining body to retain said tack body, wherein said tack retaining body comprises a first jaw and a second jaw, with each jaw terminating in spaced facing edges, said spaced facing edges forming said slot and a jaw open area in said clamp body; and  
a bridge across said jaw open area.
2. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim 1, wherein said linear clamp further comprises:  
a clamp body; and  
said spring arm attached to a first edge of said clamp body; ~~and~~  
~~a tack retaining body to retain said tack body.~~
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said jaws extend from a common second edge of said clamp body.

5. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said jaws are integrally formed with said clamp body.

6. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said tack body comprises at least one first portion and at least one second portion, said first and second portions having first and second diameters, respectively, with said second diameter smaller than said first diameter.

7. (Original) The security tag of claim 6, wherein said slot has a width approximate to said second diameter, wherein said jaws move from a first position to a second position to accommodate said first portions, and from second position to said first position to retain said second portions.

8. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein a side of said clamp body forms a first plane, and a side of said tack retaining body forms a second plane substantially parallel to said first plane.

9. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein a first portion of said spaced facing edges are substantially parallel to form said slot, with a first end of said slot forming a curve approximating a curve for said tack body, and said second end of said slot forming a release section opening into said jaw open area.

10. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim 9, wherein ~~said a~~ tag body includes a channel for a detachment probe, said channel configured to accommodate movement of said detachment probe to contact ~~said first~~ a second edge of said linear clamp.

11. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim 10, wherein said detachment probe provides force against ~~said a~~ second edge to move said linear clamp from a first position to a second position in said linear direction.

12. (Original) The security tag of claim 11, wherein said linear clamp moves from said second position to said first position when said force is terminated.

13. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein a second portion of said spaced facing edges are straight to form said jaw open area, with a first distance between a first end of said jaw open area being less than a second distance between a second end of said jaw open area.

14. (Original) The security tag of claim 1, wherein said tag housing comprises a top half and a bottom half, with said bottom half having a guide to assist movement of said linear clamp in said linear direction.

15. (Previously Presented) The security tag of claim 14, wherein said bottom half includes the abutment, said abutment being disposed approximately in line with said force.

16. (Original) The security tag of claim 2, wherein said spring arm comprises: a spring arm body that extends along said first edge of said clamp body; and a curved joint joining said spring arm body to one end of said clamp body.

17. (Original) The security tag of claim 2, wherein said spring arm moves from a first position to a second position in response to said force, and moves from said second position to said first position when said force terminates.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~18~~ 1, wherein ~~said a~~ tag body includes a channel for a detachment probe, said channel configured to accommodate movement of said detachment probe to contact said bridge.

20. (Original) The security tag of claim 19, wherein said detachment probe provides force against said bridge to move said linear clamp from a first position to a second position in said linear direction.

21. (Original) The security tag of claim 20, wherein said linear clamp moves from said second position to said first position when said force is terminated.

22. (Currently Amended) The security tag of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein a first portion of said spaced facing edges are substantially straight to form said slot, with a first end of said slot having a first width and forming a curve approximating a curve for said tack body, and a second end of said slot forming a release section opening into said jaw open area, with said release section having a second width smaller than said first width.

23. (Original) The security tag of claim 22, wherein said tag housing comprises a top half and a bottom half, with said bottom half having a guide to assist movement of said linear clamp in said linear direction.

24. (Previously Presented) The security tag of claim 23, wherein said bottom half includes the abutment, the abutment being disposed to generate a clockwise moment approximately equal and opposite to a counterclockwise moment caused by said slot.

25. (Previously Presented) A linear clamp for a security tag, comprising:

a clamp body;

a spring arm attached to a first edge of said clamp body to bias the linear clamp against one or more abutments; ~~and~~

a tack retaining body having a slot with a slot length to retain a tack body, and to release said tack body from said slot in response to a force applied in a substantially linear direction along said slot length, wherein said tack retaining body comprises a first

jaw and a second jaw, with each jaw terminating in spaced facing edges, said spaced facing edges forming said slot and a jaw open area in said clamp body; and  
a bridge across said jaw open area.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein said jaws extend from a common second edge of said clamp body.

28. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein said jaws are integrally formed with said clamp body.

29. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein a side of said clamp body forms a first plane, and a side of said tack retaining body forms a second plane substantially parallel to said first plane.

30. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein a first portion of said spaced facing edges are substantially parallel to form said slot, with a first end of said slot forming a curve approximating a curve for said tack body, and said second end of said slot forming a release section opening into said jaw open area.

31. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein ~~said~~ a second edge of said tack retaining body receives force to move said linear clamp from a first position to a second position in said linear direction.

32. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 31, wherein said tack body moves into said jaw open area when said linear clamp is in said second position, thereby releasing said tack body from said tack retaining body.

33. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 32, wherein said linear clamp moves from said second position to said first position when said force is terminated.

34. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein a second portion of said spaced facing edges are straight to form said jaw open area, with a first distance between a first end of said jaw open area being less than a second distance between a second end of said jaw open area.

35. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 31, wherein said spring arm comprises: a spring arm body that extends along said first edge of said clamp body; and a curved joint joining said spring arm body to one end of said clamp body.

36. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 35, wherein said spring arm moves from a first position to a second position in response to said force, and moves from said second position to said first position when said force terminates.

37. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 36, wherein said spring arm is biased approximately in line with said force.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~38~~ 25, wherein said bridge receives force to move said linear clamp from a first position to a second position in said linear direction.

40. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 39, wherein said tack body moves into said jaw open area when said linear clamp is in said second position, thereby releasing said tack body from said tack retaining body.

41. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 40, wherein said linear clamp moves from said second position to said first position when said force is terminated.

42. (Currently Amended) The linear clamp of claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein a first portion of said spaced facing edges are substantially straight to form said slot, with a first end of said slot having a first width and forming a curve approximating a curve for said tack body, and a second end of said slot forming a release section opening into said jaw open area, with said release section having a second width smaller than said first width.

43. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 42, wherein a second edge of said tack retaining body receives force to move said linear clamp from a first position to a second position in said linear direction.

44. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 43, wherein said tack body moves into said jaw open area when said linear clamp is in said second position, thereby releasing said tack body from said tack retaining body.

45. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 44, wherein said linear clamp moves from said second position to said first position when said force is terminated.

46. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 42, wherein said spring arm comprises: a spring arm body that extends along said first edge of said clamp body; and a curved joint joining said spring arm body to one end of said clamp body.

47. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 46, wherein said spring arm moves from a first position to a second position in response to said force, and moves from said second position to said first position when said force terminates.

48. (Original) The linear clamp of claim 47, wherein said spring arm is biased to

generate a clockwise moment approximately equal and opposite to a counterclockwise moment caused by said slot.

49. (Withdrawn) A security system, comprising: a security tag having a linear clamp with a slot to retain a tack body; a monitoring system to detect said security tag; and an alert system to communicate an alert if said monitoring system detects said security tag.

50. (Withdrawn) The security system of claim 49, further comprising a detachment device to detach said security tag from an item.

51. (Withdrawn) The security system of claim 50, wherein said detachment device includes a detachment probe.

52. (Withdrawn) The security system of claim 51, wherein said security tag further comprises a tag housing and a tack body, with said linear clamp disposed within said tag housing to retain said tack body, and said linear clamp to move in a substantially linear direction in response to force provided by said detachment probe to release said tack body from said slot.